



PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 9, 2003**

For Information Contact Public Affairs
HARRIET BERNICK
Telephone: (602) 514-7736
Pager: (602) 356-0004

NAVAJO MAN INDICTED FOR ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT MURDER, AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ABUSE AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT OF WIFE

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- Paul K. Charlton, United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, announced today that on April 8, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned an indictment against Shawn Dempsey, DOB 11/11/67 of Ganado, Arizona. The indictment charges the defendant with Assault with Intent to Commit Murder, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 113, two counts of Aggravated Sexual Abuse, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 2241 and one count of Aggravated Assault in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 113.

The indictment alleges that the defendant violently stabbed his estranged wife with a knife and also forced her to engage in sexual acts.

A conviction for Assault with Intent to Commit Murder carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Aggravated Sexual Abuse carries a maximum penalty of life in prison and \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Aggravated Assault carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and \$250,000 fine or both.

(MORE)

Mr. Charlton stressed that an indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Navajo Department of Criminal Investigations.

The prosecution is being handled by Sharon K. Sexton, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR 03-360-PCT
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-053

#